

# GARBAGE GAZETTE

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## CURBSIDE PAPER RECYCLING IN VERNON

In early 1983, the Town of Vernon (pop. 28,000) initiated a voluntary drop-off recycling program for mixed waste paper. A storage trailer was placed in a central location, the program was well publicized, and residents were urged to take their newspapers, magazines, and corrugated paper to the trailer for recycling. The town's goal was to reduce its solid waste disposal costs, which were then about \$13.50/ton. This figure included the \$12/ton (now \$13/ton) tipping fee at the Refuse Gardens Landfill in Ellington and a \$1.50/ton hauling cost to the landfill. During 1983, Vernon recycled about 77 tons of paper, thus saving about \$1040 in disposal costs. Revenues from the paper were about \$800. The cost of the program was minimal because the Willimantic Waste Paper Company provided both the storage trailer and the hauling for free.

In late 1983, Vernon decided to encourage increased participation by providing a monthly curbside paper collection simultaneous with its regular municipal garbage collection which covers about 8000 households. The town purchased three double-axle trailers for \$1400 each and modified them with removable oak sides and draw bars long enough so that the trailers ride about five feet behind the compactor hoppers. The trailers are eight feet wide so the compactor driver can see them easily, and each trailer can carry about four tons of paper. Vernon Public Works Director Ronald Hine says the trailers are large enough to accommodate all the paper that is now being collected on any given route. If tonnages continue to increase, the collection can be made bi-weekly.

It is important to note that the collection crews have not found it difficult to collect the garbage and paper at the same time even though the loading hoppers are in the rear of the compactor trucks. The draw bars are apparently long enough to keep the trailers out of the way when the garbage is being loaded. The crews have also found that they can cover their routes in about the same amount of time on paper collection days as on regular days.

At the end of each route, the trailers are dropped off at the paper storage trailer for unloading while the compactor truck makes the 18-mile round trip run to the landfill. A three-man crew transfers the paper to the storage trailer, a process which takes about three hours a day during the recycling week. This phase of Vernon's program is relatively costly because the work is done by a separate crew. The town hopes to adjust the program so that the collection crew will transfer the paper while the compactor driver is driving to the landfill and back.

The paper collection occurs during the first full week of each month. It is advertised on the radio and in the newspaper. Residents are asked to tie their paper in bundles and place it in grocery bags near their regular garbage. The collection crews say that about half of Vernon's households participate in the program.

During the first few months of the curbside program, Vernon has collected about 22 tons of waste paper each month, or about 3.5 times as much as was collected with the drop-off program. If the program continues to do this well on an annual basis, it will save Vernon about \$3800/year in disposal costs and produce about the same amount in revenues. For further information, contact Public Works Director Ronald Hine in Vernon.

## GARBAGE GAZETTE ANNIVERSARY ISSUE - INDEX: JUNE 1982 - JUNE 1984

The following is a list of the contents of the Garbage Gazette from its inception in mid-1982 to the present. If you would like copies of any of the issues, contact Toby Goodrich, Solid Waste Management Unit, DEP, State Office Bldg., Hartford, CT 06106.

### Volume 1

No. 1 (June 1982)

Introduction to the Gazette.  
Summary of prices for recyclables in Windham area.  
Report of effect of mandatory recycling in Groton.



- No. 2 (July 1982) Economics of mandatory newspaper recycling in West Hartford.  
Recycling in East Hartford.  
Maps of progressive landfill scarcity in Connecticut.  
Hints on maintaining color-separated glass quality.
- No. 3 (August 1982) Description and economics of Guilford recycling program.  
Glastonbury's method of evaluating effectiveness of recycling.  
Summary of report on leachate generation at bulky waste sites.
- No. 4 (Sept-Oct 1982) Marketing of Westport's newspaper at Garden State in N.J.  
Old Lyme's recycling effort to preserve landfill space.  
Source separation survey form and request for information.
- No. 5 (Nov-Dec. 1982) Announcement of Jan. 6th 1983 Solid Waste Conference.  
Paper market update.  
Summary of report on municipal solid waste generation.

## Volume 2

- No. 1 (January 1983) Summary of proceedings of January 6th Solid Waste Conference.
- No. 2 (February 1983) Report on findings of source separation survey.
- No. 3 (March 1983) Status of tire disposal in Connecticut.  
Suggestions for publicizing recycling in schools.
- No. 4 (April 1983) Summary of requirements for a viable energy recovery market.
- No. 5 (May-June 1983) Descriptions of composting programs in Connecticut.
- No. 6 (July 1983) List of markets and prices for glass cullet.
- No. 7 (August 1983) Announcement of workshops on state solid waste management plan.  
Summary of 1983 General Assembly's legislation on solid waste.
- No. 8 (September 1983) List of markets and prices for scrap metal in Connecticut.
- No. 9 (October 1983) Summary of draft state solid waste management plan.
- No. 10 (Nov-Dec 1983) Description of six mandatory recycling programs in CT.

## Volume 3

- No. 1 (Jan-Feb 1984) The status of energy recovery projects in Connecticut.
- No. 2 (March 1984) Examples of municipal efforts to publicize recycling.
- No. 3 (April 1984) Summary of report on solid waste generation based on  
tonnage reports from thirty-three Connecticut municipalities.
- No. 4 (May 1984) Summary of "Guidelines for Municipal Waste Oil Collection  
Facilities."

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last Garbage Gazette which I will write. I have enjoyed working with all of you and appreciate all the help you have given me during the last two years. The Gazette will be continued by Toby Goodrich, and the Solid Waste Management Unit will continue to be available to help you with source separation programs. Thanks again, and KEEP RECYCLING!! - Lois Hager

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